

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Ike Skelton, Ranking Member

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General Clark Sets Forth Steps to Success

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee heard testimony from General Wesley Clark and Richard Perle concerning lessons learned in Iraq and steps needed to ensure long-term success in that country.

Ranking Member, Ike Skelton (MO) made the following statement regarding General Clark's testimony:

"One of the hidden costs of this war lies in the fact that the people who serve and the equipment with which they perform their duty are being worn out at such incredibly high rates.

"As General Clark so ably explained today, our military's ability to deploy in support of contingencies in other parts of the world has been compromised by the size, intensity and duration of our commitment in Iraq. Our troops and equipment simply cannot sustain another conflict in their present condition.

"Army and Marine Corps recruiting continues to fall short, and I believe we must also follow General Clark's suggestion to continue to improve the benefit structure for our troops, particularly members of the National Guard and Reserve.

"Without giving these brave men and women the support they deserve, we will be unable to avoid the impending crisis in recruitment and retention."